

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 AF-08 OPIC-03 IO-13

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R 081712Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7769

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PCP DRAWS BALANCE SHEET: COMMUNISTS NEEDED
MORE THAN EVER

REF: (A) LISBON 4449 (DTG 011646Z JUL 76), (B) LISBON 4427
(DTG 011000Z JUL 76)

SUMMARY: THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ISSUED A COMPREHENSIVE
POST-ELECTION POLICY STATEMENT WHICH INDICATES THAT
THE PRINCIPAL LINES OF PARTY STRATEGY REMAIN INTACT
DESPITE PATO'S POOR SHOWING. END SUMMARY.

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1. PCP STATEMENT: LISBON MEDIA GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE

JULY 8 TO A COMPREHENSIVE PCP POST-ELECTION POLICY
STATEMENT. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

-- PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: THE FORCES OF REACTION
FAILED IN THEIR EFFORT TO RECAPTURE GROUND LOST
DURING THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. THE
RESULTS, VIEWED IN THEIR PROPER CONTEXT,
DEMONSTRATED THE GROWING OPPOSITION TO REACTION
AND TO ANY SOCIALIST ALLIANCE WITH THE RIGHT.

-- THE PATO CANDIDACY: IF THE PCP HAD NOT
PRESENTED ITS OWN CANDIDATE, THE POPULAR, WORKING-
CLASS MOVEMENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED.

-- PCP ELECTORATE STILL FIRM: THAT PORTION OF THE PCP
ELECTORATE WHICH OPTED FOR OTHER PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES (READ OTELO) WILL RETURN TO THE FOLD.
LOSSES WILL BE RECOUPED WITH INTEREST. PS VOTERS WHO
DESERTED THEIR PARTY WILL, ON THE OTHER HAND, BE
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RECAPTURE IF THE SOCIALISTS
PERSIST IN THEIR ILL-ADVISED POLICY OF EFFECTIVE ALLIANCE
WITH THE RIGHT.

-- PCP SELF-CRITICISM: FAILURE CORRECTLY TO FORECAST
THE LIKELY PATO VOTE WAS DUE TO "A FAULTY ANALYSIS OF...
THE SPIRIT OF THE MASSES AND SUBJECTIVISM...", FACTS WHICH
REQUIRE IMPROVEMENTS IN LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION.

-- RELATIONS WITH ARMED FORCES: THE PC DECIDED
NEITHER TO SUPPORT NOR OPPOSE EITHER OF THE MILITARY
CANDIDATES WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL. A PCP POSITION FOR OR AGAINST WOULD NOT HAVE
CONTRIBUTED TO UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WITH
THE ARMED FORCES, WHO, DESPITE DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS,
CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE "LIBERATING IDEAL OF APRIL 25."

-- PCP STILL INDISPENSABLE: COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN
POLITICAL LIFE AT ALL LEVELS CONTINUES TO BE
INDISPENSABLE FOR THE "DEFENSE AND CONSTRUCTION OF
DEMOCRACY ON THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM." THE PCP WILL
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SUPPORT ALL ACTIONS BY THE NEW PRESIDENT TO ENSURE
COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND TO PROTECT
REVOLUTIONARY GAINS. THE PCP WILL WORK WITHIN THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC TO DEFEND WORKER RIGHTS
AND NATIONAL INTERESTS, STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF
ACTIVATING THE "MAJORITY OF THE LEFT" WHICH THE PEOPLE
HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN. THE PCP WILL NOT SUPPORT A
MINORITY SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT. COMMUNISTS WILL

CONTINUE TO WORK FOR PS-PCP COOPERATION, AND REMAIN
READY TO EXAMINE JOINTLY WITH SOCIALISTS ALL PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT.

-- PCP IN GOVERNMENT: EVEN SHOULD A GOVERNMENT BE
FORMED WITHOUT THE PCP, A CORRECT ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT
COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION WILL BE REQUIRED WITHIN A RELATIVELY
SHORT TIME TO RESOLVE THE URGENT PROBLEMS FACING THE
NATION.

-- GDUP'S REJECTED: WORKING-CLASS UNITY MUST BE
PROMOTED AT ALL LEVELS. THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT
MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND UNITARY POPULAR ORGANIZATIONS
STIMULATED. LOCAL PCP ACTIVISTS HAVE THE "BROADEST
POSSIBLE MANDATE" TO PURSUE UNDERSTANDINGS WITH
SOCIALIST WORKERS AND "DEMOCRATS OF OTHER TENDENCIES"
AS LONG AS THEY ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.
THE GDUP'S ADVOCATED BY OTELO, HOWEVER, HAVE DIVISIONIST
OBJECTIVES. THEY ARE NOT AN INSTRUMENT OF UNITY BUT
RATHER OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND ADVENTURISM.

2. COMMENT: THE PCP STATEMENT IS LARGELY A REITERATION OF
POINTS MADE SEPARATELY ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS (REFTELS).
ITS COMPREHENSIVENESS, HOWEVER, MARKS IT AS SIGNIFICANT.
ITS MINOR SELF-CRITICISM IS NOTEWORTHY BUT IS OVERSHADOWED
BY AGGRESSIVE ARROGANCE WHICH STAMP IT AS VINTAGE CUNHAL.
THE MESSAGE WHICH COMES THROUGH IS LOUD AND CLEAR: THE
PRINCIPAL LINES OF PARTY STRATEGY REMAIN INTACT:

-- A CONTINUED EFFORT TO WOO THE SOCIALISTS, PARTICULARLY
TO SEPARATE THE BASES FROM THE LEADERSHIP.
-- INSISTANCE UPON PCP PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT AS THE
PRICE FOR COMMUNIST HELP IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY EFFORT.
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-- DILIGENT LIP SERVICE TO THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE
ARMED FORCES IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.
-- A REDOUBLED EFFORT AT BASE LEVELS TO STRENGTHEN
UNITARY ORGANIZATIONS TO PREEMPT POSSIBLE CHALLENGES
FROM OTELO'S GDUP'S.
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